AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 13 and ending on page 16, line 29 with the following paragraph:

One advantage to this approach is that the metadata driven applications 208 on mobile computing devices 206 can be customized by an administrator who does ~~understanding~~ not understand how to code using, for example, graphical user interface tools. Additionally, customizations can be easily deployed onto the server 204 as customized metadata 216 and onto the mobile computing devices 206 (e.g., personal digital assistants (PDA's), mobile phones, etc.) as mobile metadata 212 without recompiling the code for application 208. Furthermore, the applications 208 can be updated through installation of service packs without losing any of the customizations that have been made. As a result, the applications 208 can easily evolve along with the needs of a business without requiring the intervention of the developer of the business application.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 26, line 25 and ending on page 27, line 10 with the following paragraph:

At step 292 of the method of FIG. 7, the customized metadata ~~or entities~~ 216 corresponding to the entities ~~282~~ 220 identified in the subscription list 276 are sent to the mobile computing device 206. In accordance with one embodiment of the invention, this data transmission is performed using synchronizer 294, shown in FIG. 2. Synchronizer 294 includes sync engines 296 and 298, which are configured to form a communication link between central and mobile data storage systems 202 and 210 and allow system 200 perform a sync operation between central and mobile databases 218 and 214 in accordance with known methods.

Such sync operations are preferably substantially performed in the background to allow the user of the mobile computing device 206 to access and operate the application 208 without interruption.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 27, line 11 and ending on page 27, line 30 with the following paragraph:

During a sync operation between the central and mobile data storage systems 202 and 210, the subscription metadata 276 is read to determine which customized metadata entities 216 are to be sent to the mobile computing device 206. Next, only the customized metadata entities ~~282~~ 216 identified in the subscription list 276 are sent to mobile computing device 206, which are then stored in data store 214, as indicated at step 300 of the method. Alternatively, when mobile computing device 206 already includes customized metadata 212 in data store 214, the synch operation between the central and mobile databases 218 and 214 can simply involve replacing the existing or old customized metadata with the new customized metadata. Preferably, only the customized metadata 216 contained in central data store that has been updated since the last synching operation is sent to the mobile computing device 206 to either replace the corresponding old customized metadata 212 or be added to the metadata 212.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 1 and ending on page 28, line 13 with the following paragraph:

Preferably, the data 224 that corresponds to the customized metadata entities ~~282~~ 216 identified in the subscription metadata 276 are also transmitted to mobile computing device 206 and stored in data store 214 by data accessing system 230. The application 208 then renders or

populates the entities defined by the customized metadata entities 212 using the corresponding sent data 226 contained in data store 214. The populated or rendered entities 222 can then be displayed for the user on the mobile computing device 206 in accordance with the form or view defined by the corresponding sent customized metadata 212.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 14 and ending on page 29, line 19 with the following paragraph:

One alternative to transmitting the customized metadata 216 and the corresponding data 224 separately to mobile computing device 206 is to transmit rendered or populated entities 220 that correspond to the customized metadata entities 282 216 identified in the subscription list 276. This embodiment of the method of the present invention is illustrated in the flowchart of FIG. 9. The method initially begins in accordance with steps 270, 272, and 274 of the method discussed above. Accordingly, customized metadata 216 is provided at step 302, the customized metadata and corresponding data are stored at step 304, and a subscription list of the entities defined by subscription metadata is provided at step 306. However, rather then sending the customized metadata 216 and the corresponding data 224 separately to database 214 of mobile computing device 206, the entities 282 220 identified in the subscription list 276 are rendered or populated, at step 308, with the corresponding data 224 in accordance with the customized metadata 216 to form populated entities or objects. Next, at step 310, the populated entities are sent to the mobile computing device 312 (FIG. 2). Finally, at step 314, the populated entities are stored in an object data store 316 of the mobile computing device 312, as illustrated in FIG. 2. Preferably, only the populated entities that have changed since the last synching operation are sent to mobile computing device 312 to replace old

populated entities contained in the object data store 316 or to be added thereto. As a result, there is no need to render the entities defined by the customized metadata 216 in the mobile computing device 312. Instead, application 208 of mobile computing device 312 can directly access the populated entities and display them to the user.